

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 7**

BILL NUMBER: AB 2625    AMENDED  
BILL TEXT

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY    APRIL 18, 2006

INTRODUCED BY    Assembly Member Pavley

FEBRUARY 24, 2006

An act to add Article 3.6 (commencing with Section 157) to Chapter 1 of Division 1 of the Streets and Highways Code, relating to streets and highways, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2625, as amended, Pavley California Heritage Corridor Act.

Existing law provides that the Department of Transportation has full possession and control of all state highways. Existing law, the California Recreational Trails Act, requires the Director of Parks and Recreation to cause to be prepared, and continuously maintained, a comprehensive plan for the development and operation of a statewide system of recreational trails. The act requires the director, in planning the system, to consult with and seek the assistance of the Department of Transportation. The act requires the Department of Transportation to plan and design the recreational trail routes that are in need of construction contiguous to state highways and serve both transportation and recreational need. The act also requires the Department of Transportation to install or supervise the installation of signs along heritage corridors, as defined.

This bill would enact the California Heritage Corridor Act and establish the California Heritage Corridor Committee in the Department of Transportation to determine street and highway routes that qualify to be designated as heritage corridors, as defined, and locations that qualify to be identified within designated heritage corridors. The bill would establish the membership of the committee and its duties and would require the department to provide administrative and staff support to the committee. The bill would establish the California Heritage Corridor Fund in the State Treasury and require all moneys in the fund to be continuously appropriated to the department and made available to the committee to cover its costs in implementing the California Heritage Corridor Act. Because moneys in the fund would be continuously appropriated, the bill would make an appropriation. The bill would authorize the committee to establish fees to cover the administrative processing of applications for consideration of heritage corridors and locations within heritage corridors and would authorize the committee to collect revenues from sponsorships, grants and other specified sources. The bill would require the committee, in cooperation with the department, to design a heritage corridor roadside sign that meets specified requirements for the purpose of identifying heritage corridor routes. The bill would require the department to, in consultation with the committee, develop criteria for placement of heritage corridor signs

and to install and maintain those signs *on state highways* at the request of the committee.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Article 3.6 (commencing with Section 157) is added to Chapter 1 of Division 1 of the Streets and Highways Code, to read:

Article 3.6. California Heritage Corridors

157. The provisions of this article shall be known as the California Heritage Corridor Act.

157.1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) Heritage corridors within California will encourage travelers to explore California, resulting in increased travel spending and greater understanding and appreciation of California's history and culture among visitors and residents.

(b) California heritage corridors are intended to help travelers "connect the dots" of California's history and culture, providing appealing reasons to discover them.

(c) By consolidating historic and cultural locations by their common thread, travelers will be motivated to visit what fascinates them about California's past and its people.

(d) This approach is fundamentally different than the designation of individual sites as historically significant because it weaves places together by their common interests, expands identification to culturally significant locations, and thereby encourages discovery of people, places, and creations.

(e) Heritage corridors will not be limited to historic places, events, trails or roads, as California's heritage includes its cultures, industries, resources, arts, products, literature, philosophies, and achievements, among other concepts.

(f) Examples of possible heritage corridors include the following:

(1) El Camino Real (Spanish exploration, California Missions, adobes).

(2) Route 66 (classic cars, dust bowl emigration).

(3) California Gold Rush (locations across the breadth of California where gold was sought).

(4) Motion picture heritage (studios, actors, locations, mansions, "hangouts").

(5) Pioneer heritage (California Trail, Emigrant Trail, Donner, Carson, Fremont).

(6) Ethnic heritage (Fremont ~~—(Afghanistani)—~~  
(Afghan), Leimert Park, Los Angeles (African), Garden Grove (Vietnamese), Yuba City (Indian), Solvang (Danish), Kingsburg (Swedish), Fresno (Armenian), San Francisco (Italian, Chinese, Japanese, French), Los Angeles (Mexican, Korean), Sacramento (Russian)).

(7) Immigration, migration, and settlement (Angel Island State Park, Allensworth State Park).

(8) High tech heritage (Silicon Valley, San Jose, San Diego, Los Angeles).

(9) Wine heritage (Napa, Sonoma, Mendocino, Lodi, Central Valley, Sierra Foothills, Temecula, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Santa Clara Valley, Monterey County, Paso Robles).

(10) Aviation heritage (Lindberg, Hughes, Earhart, Rockwell, Lockheed, Northrup).

(11) Agricultural heritage (Route 99, Cesar Chavez, multi-ethnic communities).

(12) Environmental heritage (John Muir Home (Benicia), Yosemite Valley, Redwoods State Park, Big Basin State Park, Henry Cowell State Park, Owens Valley, Mono Lake).

(13) Music heritage (Haight-Ashbury, Beach Boys, Soundtracks, Hollywood).

(14) World War II homefront (Richmond, Oakland, Hunter's Point, Ft. Mason, Burbank, Angel Island State Park, Monterey, San Diego, Los Angeles, Deserts).

(15) Art trails (Sonoma, East Sierra, Santa Cruz County).

(16) Timber heritage (Eureka, Samoa, Scotia, Redding).

(17) Literary heritage (Steinbeck, Saroyan, London, Dana, Stevenson, Twain, Harte, Geisel, Frost, O'Neill, Muir, Bierce, Fisher).

(18) Native American heritage (tribal communities, rancherias, Yosemite National Park, Indian Grinding State Park, Palm Springs).

(19) Farm trails (Julian, Apple Hill, San Mateo County, Blossom Trail).

(20) *Performing arts districts (San Francisco, Los Angeles, La Jolla, Santa Monica, Hollywood, Pasadena, Berkeley, San Jose).*

157.2. *This act in nonregulatory.* Nothing in this act shall restrict property or development rights. The sole purpose of this act is to commemorate California's heritage.

157.3. For the purposes of this article, the following definitions shall apply:

(a) "Act" means the California Heritage Corridor Act.

(b) "Department" means the Department of Transportation.

(c) "Committee" means the California Heritage Corridor Committee, as established in this article.

(d) "Applicant" means any public or private person or organization that applies to have a heritage corridor established or to have a location on an existing heritage corridor established.

(e) "Fund" means the California Heritage Corridor Fund, as established in this article.

(f) "Heritage corridor" means physical or conceptual routes of cultural or historical significance within California. For purposes of this article, the term "heritage corridor" shall not be defined as provided in ~~subdivision (c) of Section 5070.3~~

*Sections 5070.3, 5077.6, and 5078 of the Public Resources Code, which provide guidance in the administration of the State Recreational Trails and the State Heritage Network. Heritage corridors established by this act shall require separate Department of Parks and Recreation approval to be identified among State Recreational Trails or within the State Heritage Network.*

157.4. (a) A California Heritage Corridor Committee shall be established within the department to determine street and highway routes that qualify to be designated as heritage corridors and locations that qualify to be identified within designated heritage corridors.

(b) The committee shall be comprised of ~~nine~~

11 members, as follows:

(1) Six public agency members that include ~~a~~ one representative each from the Department of Transportation, the California Travel and Tourism Commission, the California Arts Council, the California State Historic Preservation Office, the California State Library, and a state university.

(2) ~~Three~~ Five private members that include ~~a~~ one representative each from a private nonprofit heritage organization, a private nonprofit cultural organization, ~~and~~ a private nonprofit tourism ~~or~~ organization, a private nonprofit economic development organization, and a heritage organization representing California Native Americans.

(c) Public agency members of the committee shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of their respective agency heads. Private members of the committee shall be selected by the committee and shall serve at the pleasure of the committee.

(d) The chair of the committee shall be one of the public agency members of the committee. The committee shall vote to elect the chair and he or she shall serve at the pleasure of the committee.

(e) Committee members shall receive no remuneration other than their normal wages, if they are a state employee, and reimbursement of reasonable costs related to attending committee meetings and conducting committee business.

(f) The committee shall meet in person or through electronic means, as necessary to conduct business.

(g) The department shall provide administrative and staff support to the committee.

157.5. The committee shall ~~establish~~ define standards and procedures for the establishment of heritage corridors and for the inclusion of locations within heritage corridors. The committee shall be the sole arbiter as to whether to certify or decertify a heritage corridor or any location included within a heritage corridor. An application shall not be required to be received for the committee to establish a heritage corridor or to qualify a location for inclusion in a heritage corridor. Heritage corridor locations shall not be required to meet the standard necessary for inclusion in the State Historic Resources Inventory.

*Consideration of how public transportation passengers can experience heritage corridors shall be identified in each application.*

157.6. The Committee shall establish fees to cover the administrative processing of applications for consideration of heritage corridors and locations within heritage corridors. Fees and other revenues collected pursuant to this article shall be deposited in the California Heritage Corridor Fund, which is hereby established in the State Treasury. Notwithstanding Section 13340 of the Government Code, all moneys in the fund shall be continuously appropriated to department and made available to the committee to cover its costs in implementing this article.

157.7. An objective of the committee shall be to reduce the burden upon state government by seeking to make the administration of the act self-sufficient. Toward that end, the committee may collect revenue from applications, sponsorships, partnerships, grants, licensing, promotions, heritage-related merchandise, and other revenue-producing programs. This revenue shall be deposited in the fund and shall be used to sustain the act and further the preservation and promotion of California's heritage. The committee

may disburse revenues from the fund to local, regional, statewide, and national cultural, heritage, and tourism organizations for the preservation and promotion of California's heritage. The committee may contract for products and services necessary for the implementation of the act. The committee may apply for governmental and private grants and funds, issue grants, establish cooperative agreements and license heritage corridor-related items.

157.8. The committee, in cooperation with the department, shall design a heritage corridor roadside sign ~~which~~ that shall bear a distinctive symbol or image and the words "Heritage Corridor." Though different in design, heritage corridor signs shall be similar in size, shape, and use as California scenic highway signs, and their design shall be protected through copyright or trademark registration. *City and county versions of the sign shall also be designed.* Only routes and locations officially designated by the committee as part of a heritage corridor ~~may use California's~~ are eligible to be identified by the heritage corridor sign. *The department shall install heritage corridor signs that are associated only with state highways, U.S. highways, interstate freeways, or state financed public transportation systems. Placement of heritage corridor signs on all other roads and transit systems shall be left to the approval of, and may be implemented by, the appropriate local jurisdiction.*

Directly below heritage corridor signs, brown and white placards may be placed on sign posts to identify the ~~route~~ name of the heritage corridor, the specific location, and any identifying number.

157.9. The department shall, pursuant to Section 157.8 and to the maximum extent feasible, install and maintain heritage corridor signs when requested by the committee and shall establish criteria for placement of heritage corridor signs in consultation with the committee. The committee shall cooperate with the department and other affected local, state, and federal agencies to ~~minimize redundant or duplicate signage~~ assure that heritage corridor signs comply with applicable laws, regulations, and standards. *Heritage corridor signs shall meet the standards and specifications established pursuant to Section 21400 of the Vehicle Code but shall not be classified as traffic control devices.*

157.10. The cost to purchase, erect, and maintain heritage corridor signs shall be borne by applicants, or by the committee if sufficient funds are available within the fund. These costs shall be reimbursed to the department at their actual cost plus the department's administrative expenses. If a heritage corridor sign becomes damaged, vandalized, or is missing, the department shall not be required to replace it without compensation from an applicant or the committee.

157.11. As resources permit, the committee shall publicize, advertise, or otherwise promote the California Heritage Corridor Act. Where possible and affordable, innovative technologies, including the State's 511 travel alert system, the Internet, podcasting, videocasting, satellite communications, *GPS, cellular phone* and other methods shall be employed to encourage traveler interest in and an understanding of California's history and culture.

157.12. Every entity of state government shall cooperate with

the committee to further the provisions of this article.

157.13. If the committee drafts regulations to implement this article, the committee shall submit the regulations to the department for its review *and approval* prior to the adoption of the regulations.